

From: Robert Thielke
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Antitrust Division
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I am writing to express my concern for the Department of Justice proposed settlement with Microsoft corporation. I believe the settlement contains overly narrow definitions of Microsoft products in terms of their restrictions. It leaves out programs like Microsoft Outlook that are ingrained in many corporations. The definitions of API and Middleware leave lots of wriggle room for Microsoft in terms of what they must make available to competitors. I realize it is difficult to pin these things down in the ever changing world of software but I think that more must be done to put some teeth into these rules.

Microsoft has shown a history of not fully documenting API's making it more difficult for programmers to write software and system managers to maintain it. An effort should be made to ensure there is documentation released for products in a timely manner.

Microsoft's new primary goal of security is a good one. However, if they use it to try to exclude software from third parties they will be locking down their hold on the desktop even further. I definitely do not want to discourage an effort to make systems more secure but Microsoft must still make an effort to share information so that creating drivers for hardware and writing software that runs well with Windows is not so difficult.

I believe it is in Microsoft's best interest to pursue the above issues and I hope there would not have to be much enforcement of the settlement. They have achieved a position through illegal business practices that warrants steps be taken to prevent them from further damaging other businesses.

Thank you,
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